Farmers' Assistance Centres in A.P.

5137. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Farmers' Assistance Centres functioning in Andhra Pradesh, location-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to setup more such Centres in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, names of Districts/Mandals/Villages identified for this purpose;

(d) by when the new Farmers' Assistance Centres are likely to start functioning; and

(e) details of guidelines under which these Centres would function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No Farmers' Assistance Centre is being run presently in Andhra Pradesh under any programme of this Ministry. However, one Agricultural Technology Information Centre (ATIC) is functioning at Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. This has been sanctioned by the ICAR under National Agricultural Technology Project (NATP).

(b) No such proposal is under consideration by the ICAR under NATP during the current financial year.

(c) to (e) Questions do not arise.

Import of garlic

5138. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) when country is expected a bumper crop of garlic, as per the reports arriving from garlic producing States, if so, why Government are bent upon importing garlic this year; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Director General (foreign trade) has serious objections on the import of garlic which would badly hurt the interest of farmers?